

HALLAM HOSPITAL,
WEST BROMWICH.

*The Administrative Block,
The X-ray Department
— and —
The Nurses' Home.*

FORMAL OPENING

— BY —

SIR WILLIAM WILLCOX,
K.C.I.E., C.B., C.M.G., M.D., F.R.C.P.,

Physician to St. Mary's Hospital,
London.

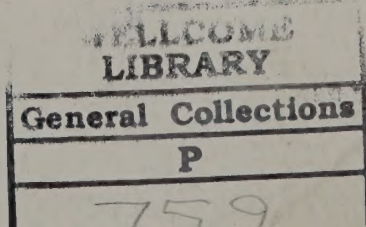
30th March, 1928.

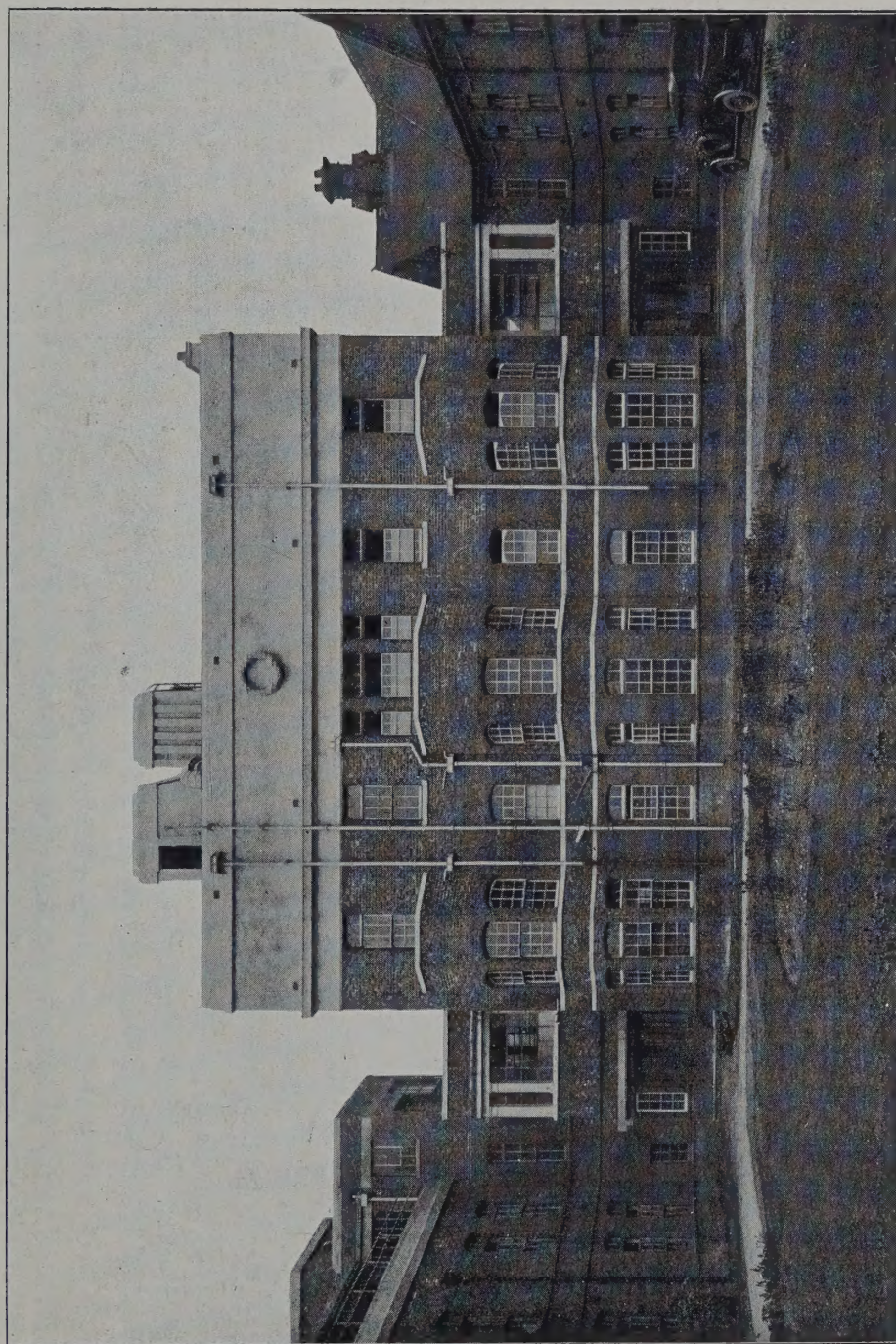


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THE HOSPITAL.



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Mr. J. O. Amphlett, Mr. G. Haynes, J.P., Mr. A. J. Liggins.

Bottom Row (left to right) Rev. P. Burnett, Mrs. A. E. Williams, Rev. J. Scarlett (Chairman), Mr. A. H. Ward (Clerk)
Miss M. Ashworth (Matron), Mr. J. L. Radcliffe.

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VISITING MEDICAL STAFF.

Physicians—

Douglas Stanley, M.D., F.R.C.P.,
Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Birmingham University.

W. A. Potts, M.A., M.D. (for Mental Cases),
Psychological Expert to the Birmingham Justices.

Surgeons—

L. A. Dingley, M.D., F.R.C.S.,
B. T. Rose, B.Sc., M.Ch., F.R.C.S.,
Assistant Lecturer on Clinical Surgery, University of Birmingham.

Gynecologist—

J. S. M. Connell, F.R.C.S., Edin.

Aural Surgeon—

F. Brayshaw Gilhespy, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.L.O.

Radiologist—

G. E. Dyas, M.B., B.Ch., D.M.R.E.

*Surgeon Dentist—*W. Tregea, L.D.S.

RESIDENT MEDICAL STAFF.

Resident Medical Officer—

S. H. Reeves, M.B., Ch.B.

Resident Surgical Officers—

D. Livingstone Pow, M.B., Ch.B.

A. H. Wilson, M.B., Ch.B.

*Matron—*Miss Ashworth.

*Asst. Matron—*Miss Cochran.

*Steward—*Mr. G. Crews.

Laboratory Technologist—

Mr. L. C. Brookes.

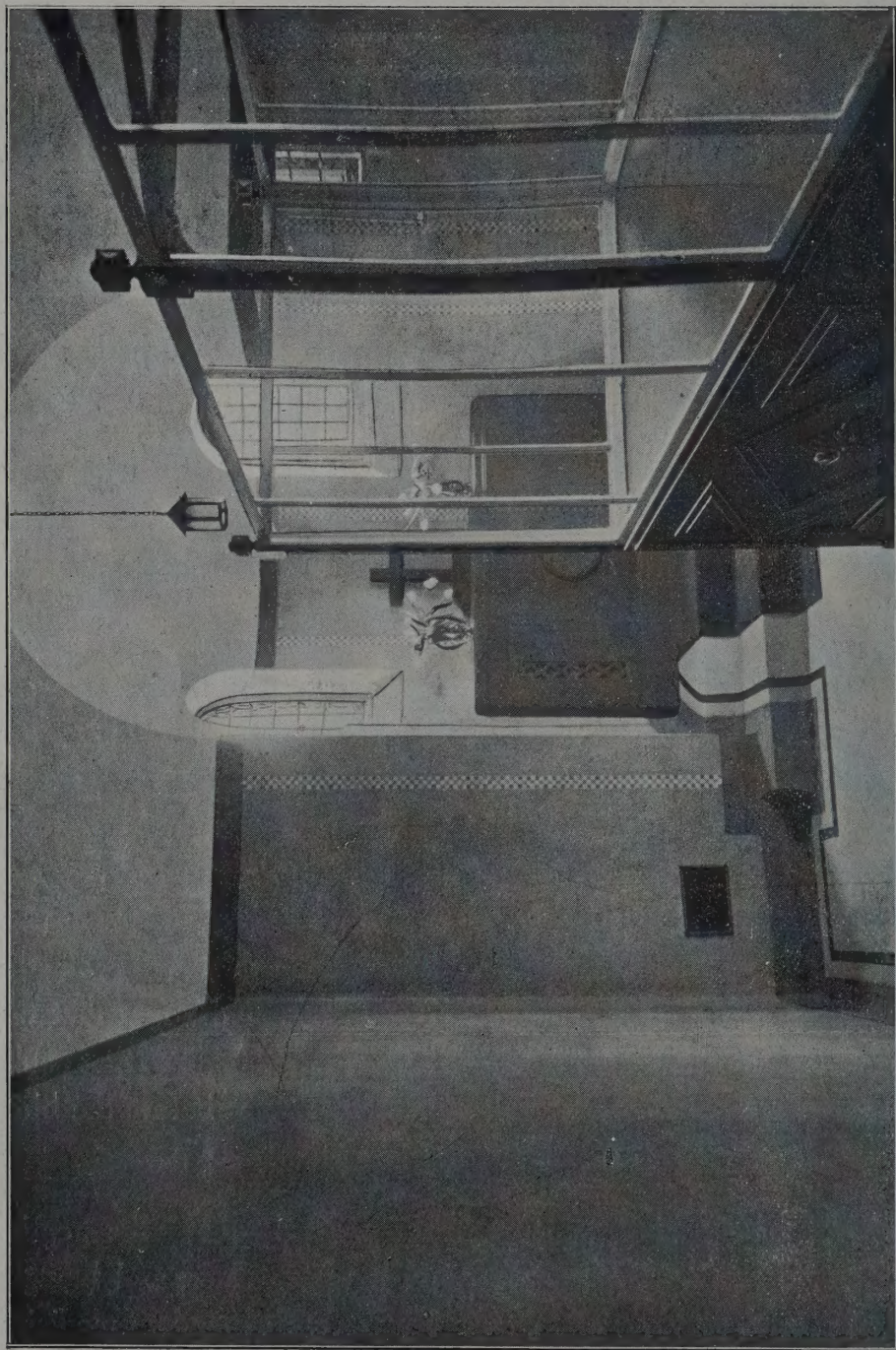
The Past. The West Bromwich Infirmary was a gloomy place in former times.

In some ways it shewed an advance in ideas compared with many others throughout the country. The ground plan was good in the arrangement of the wards and sanitary blocks, but inside, the wards were cheerless as the walls were unplastered brick, which though painted looked cold. The floors belonged to a by-gone age in hospital construction. Constant scrubbing and years of use had worn them down, so it was well apparent that they had served their time, and were dangerous.

These wards were heated by large central stoves with flues going up through the ceiling. The only merit of these dust-collecting monsters was that they gave out a good heat, thereby relieving the dulness of the wards.

The bath-rooms were as old-fashioned as the floors, and the baths bore a strong resemblance to ancient sarcophagi. There was no proper division into medical and surgical wards. Nor was there any operating theatre. Operations were done in a side room which was dark, inconvenient in every way and destitute of proper instrument cupboards and fixtures. Needless to say, there was no electric lighting. The Infirmary kitchen opened directly off the corridor connecting the two main wings. Beyond the fact that the distance for carrying food was short, there was nothing else that could be said in its favour; it also was a relic of the times before the birth of the modern hospital and labour saving appliances.

The Change. The Board recognised that the entire Infirmary required to be altered, largely re-constructed and brought up to date in every way, so that the advantages of modern medicine and surgery should be available for the patients. The great transformation began in 1925 in the wards. These were re-floored in oak and polished; the walls were plastered and painted; central heating and electric light were installed. The sanitary blocks were re-constructed and their floors terrazzo-paved; sound new plumbing



MORTUARY CHAPEL.

was fitted. Each ward so soon as the contractors had completed their work, was furnished with hospital beds and fixtures of the latest designs.

On the male side balconies were erected on the ground and first floors with the front completely open, in order that open air treatment should be available for those patients who required it.

On the female side a ' roof ward ' was constructed above the first floor, which may well be regarded as one of the best and most pleasing roof wards in the country.

The maternity block, fortunately, did not require much alteration, so with the installation of central heating, electric light and re-decoration, it was soon in readiness for occupation. Each block when finished and equipped was divided into a medical and surgical service of two wards each. They were quickly occupied, as it was never thought that the needs of the public should wait till the whole of the scheme of re-construction should be complete.

As the permanent operating theatre was to be in the new administrative block it was necessary to provide a temporary. This was located in a well-lighted side ward, and has served its purpose extremely well.

Thus within a few months of beginning the work of transformation patients were being received in rapidly increasing numbers into the bright and modernised wards that had taken the place of the old and rather gloomy.

Hallam Hospital. It was then time to mark the beginning of the new era by a change of style, and so the West Bromwich Workhouse Infirmary was named " Hallam Hospital," and it became a self-contained institution by the consent of the Ministry of Health.

The Administrative Block. But wards, however excellent and bright, do not constitute a hospital. Modern methods require a properly equipped operating theatre, an X-ray department, and many other additions for efficient work, as well as space for appliances that make for smooth economical management. In short, the



ONE OF THE HOSPITAL WARDS.

administrative department of a hospital of to-day is as much an advance on old methods as is the medical and surgical work carried out in the wards.

It was therefore necessary to provide a block that would enable the treatment and nursing of the patients to go on efficiently and quickly. So the old kitchen building was partly pulled down, and the new block was raised on its site. This, as now completed, contains, on the ground floor, a waiting hall for patients, consulting rooms for examination of newly admitted cases, the dispensary, the Matron's and Steward's offices, the telephone room, in which is placed an automatic switchboard that links up the whole hospital. On the first floor is the new operating theatre equipped with special heating and lighting—this by means of a 'scialytic lamp,' the object of which is to give a powerful light without shadow for operations at night. Opening off the theatre are the anæsthetic and sterilizing rooms. Attached to the theatre are a surgeons' bathroom and a dressings store.

On the second floor are the nurses' dining room, the medical and general stores, and the sewing room, while on the top floor is a splendid kitchen with steam boilers, the cookers, the larders, milk room, and the maids' dining room. The whole is served by two electric lifts, one for patients, the other a 'service lift.'

It will be seen, therefore, that the Administrative Block is very centrally placed and conveniently planned.

X-ray Department. One of the first requirements in the forward policy of the Board was the provision of an X-ray Department, a proposal that calls for no apology, as no hospital can be without one.

The department is housed in a one-storey building carried out from the Administrative Block, and easily accessible for all cases, whether just admitted in the ambulance or coming from the wards.

It is constructed on the best principles of insulation, and provided with a dark room amply equipped for developing plates.



OPEN-AIR WARD.

The apparatus is of the latest design with a K.V.A. transformer.

In an adjoining room is the Ultra Violet Light installation, fitted with arc and mercury vapor lamps.

The entrance hall is provided with curtain cubicles where patients get ready for examination.

The Laboratory. The advances that have taken place in medical science during the last few years have altered profoundly all methods of investigation and treatment of disease. No hospital can do its work to-day without well-equipped laboratories where bacteriological and chemical investigations can be carried out, as an aid in diagnosis, and to mark the progress of treatment.

It is particularly in cases of diabetes, Bright's disease, and diseases of the blood that biochemical investigations give important help. To-day, the surgeon who removes a tumour requires to know exactly its type by means of microscopic examination. These are a few examples to show how indispensable are the bacteriological, biochemical and pathological laboratories in that complicated machine, the modern hospital.

The Board equipped a laboratory at Hallam Hospital, which was ready early in 1927. Notwithstanding that the space is limited, there is an ample equipment of apparatus, microscopes and bacteriological plant. As giving some idea of the amount of work done in the laboratory in the year, there have been 3,378 reports on material sent for examination—the sugar estimates alone being 1,092.

The Staff. As the alterations and additions were being planned, it was foreseen that the new hospital would without doubt have to deal with a vast number of patients. The Board, therefore, decided to appoint a Visiting Medical Staff of physicians, surgeons, gynecological and aural specialists, and also resident medical officers. These latter were for the purpose of insuring continuity of supervision in treatment during the intervals between the attendance of the Visiting Staff, for in every large general hospital, such as



X-RAY DEPARTMENT.

Hallam Hospital has become, there is night as well as day work. There are frequent emergencies, and qualified resident medical officers are required who shall deal with minor cases, and be able to decide when it may be necessary to summon a member of the Visiting Staff.

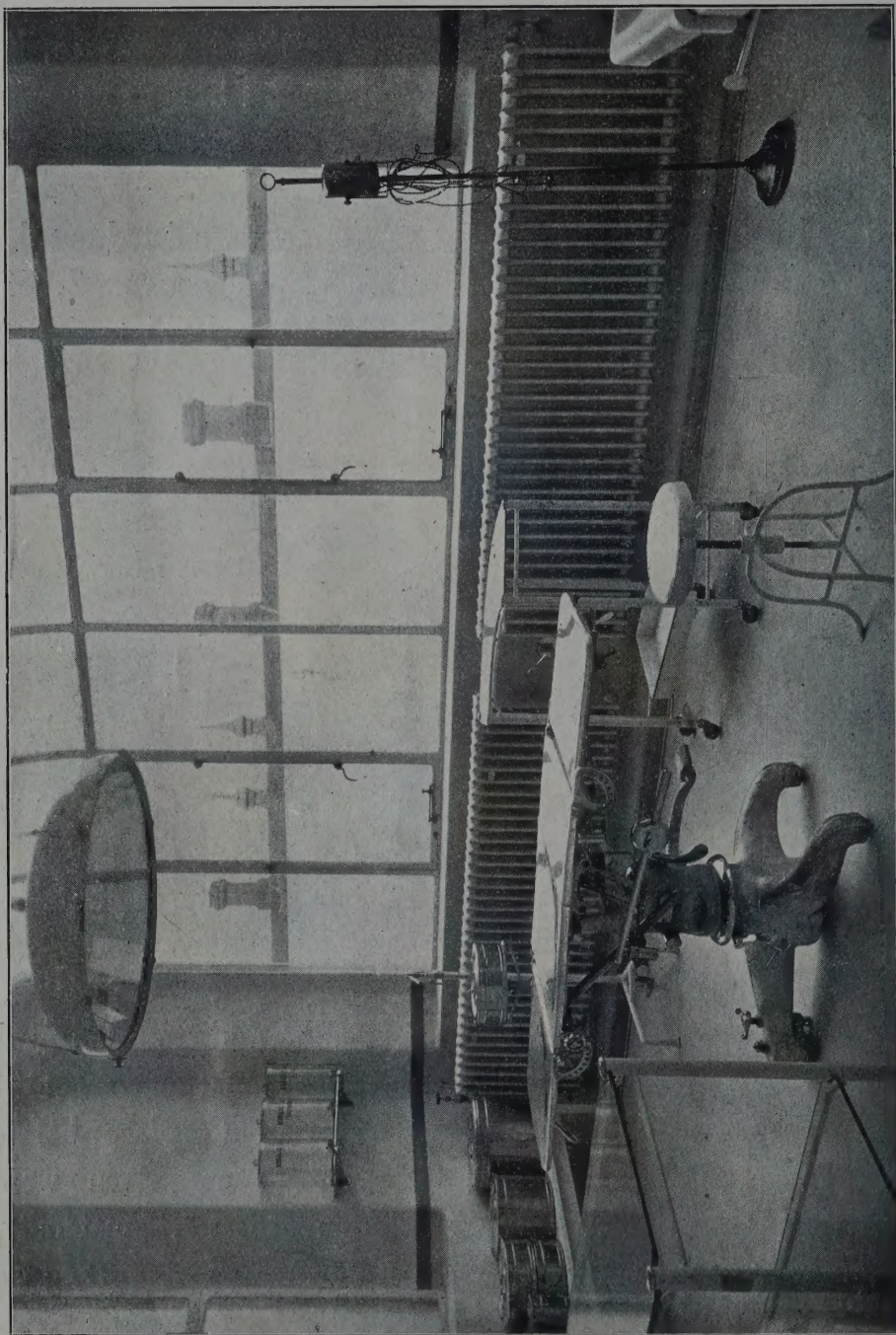
Two resident officers were appointed in the first instance, but the number of patients increased so rapidly that it became necessary to appoint a third in 1926.

To give some idea of this increase, it may be pointed out that in 1926, 2,304 patients were admitted, in 1927 there were 2,963. The number of operations increased from 120 in 1925 to 690 in 1926, and to 924 in 1927.

Nursing Staff. The transformation of the wards, and the demands of modern medical and surgical work, necessitated an increase of the nursing staff, and the changes that have been made reflect as much as anything the policy of the Board.

In 1925, the Matron had under her five ward sisters (one of whom came daily) and 23 probationer nurses. She was assisted by a Sister-Tutor, and there was one Night Sister. There was no Theatre Sister, nor was there a sister in charge of the maternity wards. The accommodation for nurses, though fairly comfortable, was inadequate and of a temporary character. It was impossible to postpone the change till the new Home was built, so the Matron, Miss Ashworth, who came to the Hospital shortly before the work of the renovations and alterations was begun, at once got out a scheme for the re-organisation of the staff to place before the Board. The result is that to-day there are seven ward sisters, three specialist sisters for the theatre, maternity, and X-ray departments, a Sister-Tutor, a Home and a Night Sister. Each ward sister has a permanent staff nurse under her. The probationer nurses have been increased to 52. There is now an Assistant Matron, whose duties are wholly administrative.

One of the chief difficulties during the renovation has been to accommodate this increased staff. It was got over by making



OPERATING THEATRE.

temporary dormitories for some of the nurses in the Children's Block pending the building of the new Home. Notwithstanding these difficulties no member of the nursing staff lives out.

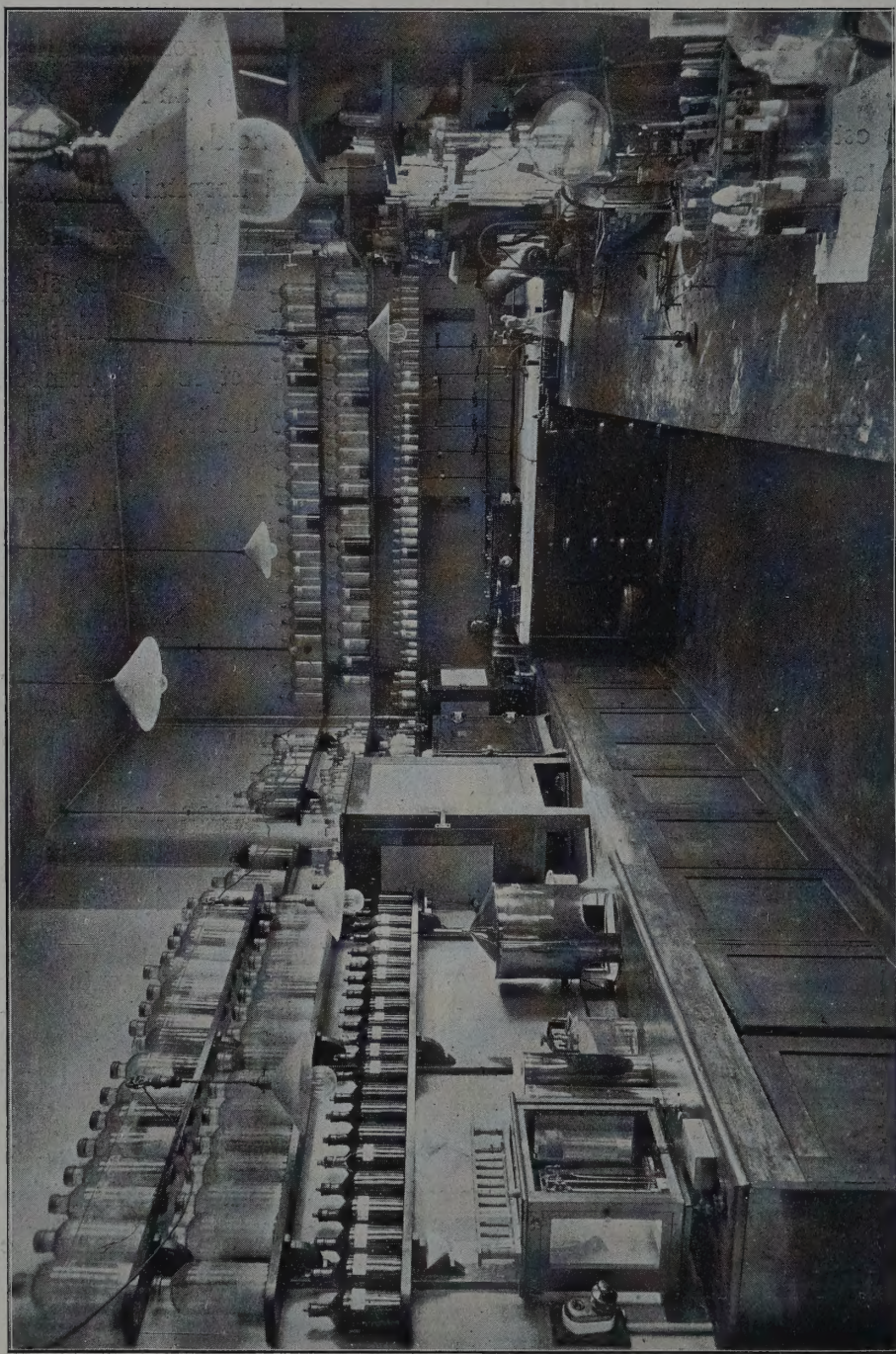
The Hospital Committee much appreciate the willing way in which the nursing staff have faced many inevitable difficulties and not a few discomforts. The Home opened to-day removes all of these. It is a ' Home ' in every sense of the word, and is a proof of the esteem in which the Nursing Profession is held. It would be a revelation to those who planned and managed hospitals 50 years ago, could they but see it. The few nurses then considered necessary were given but scant accommodation. Some had to sleep in the wards. The new Home at Hallam Hospital contains 70 bedrooms, fine bathrooms, a recreation room, the style and comfort of which must surely have an influence on all who use it.

Miss Ashworth has also re-organised the teaching and training of the probationer nurses. Lectures are given by members of the Medical Staff, in addition to instruction by the Matron and the Sister-Tutor. The number of passes in the State examinations, both preliminary and final, and the examination of the Central Midwives Board has been very gratifying.

During the time (1925-1928) that re-construction has been in progress, the work of the Hospital has not only been carried on, but increased—under what difficulties, may be imagined.

Now that the essential alterations and improvements are completed, there will be less difficulty, and the Departments opened to-day will more than facilitate the work that Hallam Hospital has laid out to do.

And those who have given time and thought to its re-construction have reason to feel that it may now take a front place among the hospitals of the country.



LABORATORY.

Architectural Description of New Buildings.



ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK AND X-RAY DEPARTMENT.

The old administrative centre being totally inadequate in size and out of date and deficient in equipment, it was apparent that measures must be taken to bring this essential part of the Institution into line with modern requirements.

The Guardians, therefore, consulted their Architects, John P. Osborne and Son, who planned the present building on the site, retaining as far as possible the main walls of the old one. The fact that the actual area on which to build was extremely circumscribed, led to a multi-storey type of building being adopted, and the new building rises four storeys above the ground level.

The exterior is of a modern rational style which depends for its effect on simplicity, scale and grouping. Flat roofs were decided upon as being sound and rendering future extension easy.

Inside, the building is finished in the accepted hospital manner with all angles rounded, dust collecting surfaces reduced to a minimum and mouldings entirely eliminated. The main entrance is under a glass covered "Port Cochere," on the north of which is the X-ray block with dark room, and rooms for diagnosis and treatment by X-rays and Ultra Violet rays. On the south side of the covered way is a Porter's Office, a Waiting Room, with Bathroom and sanitary accommodation. From the Waiting Room a corridor running north and south gives access to Examination Rooms, Dressing Rooms, and the Dispensary, and joins up with the main corridor running E. and W. connecting with the Ward Pavilions and from which the Doctors, Chief Medical Officer's and Staff Offices and Telephone Exchange are entered. The two main corridors are of the form of a letter T and the automatic bed and service lifts are at the junction of the two arms.



PORTRION OF NURSES' DINING ROOM.

On the first floor is the Operating Suite with Surgeons' and Nurses' Changing Rooms, Sterilizing Room, Anæsthetising Room and Operating Room, the latter facing north and having a large window of special type giving the maximum amount of useful light.

The Sterilizing, Anæsthetising and Operating Rooms are *en suite*. Patients being brought for operations on the Bed Lift are wheeled directly into the Anæsthetising Room and thence carried into the Operating Room. The details of this suite being of outstanding importance have received considerable thought to render them capable of being kept in an aseptic condition with the greatest certainty, and the whole can be "hosed down" and cleaned in the shortest possible time. In order to further facilitate cleaning, all fittings, besides being of a special type, have as far as possible been kept off the floors. The floors and walls, to a height of 3-ft. 6-in., are of special sanitary terrazzo, brought to a fine finish, and the walls above and the ceiling are enamelled on hard plaster.

On the second floor are the Nurses' Dining Room and Servery with Lift to the Kitchen, Sewing Room, Lavatories, Stores, etc.

The third and top storey contains the Kitchen, Scullery, Larder, Dairy and appropriate Stores with Dining Room and Lavatory accommodation for the kitchen staff.

The Kitchen and Scullery have terrazzo floors and are mainly top north-lighted and ventilated; the steam from the cooking apparatus being trapped by mechanically ventilated glass hoods. By this means and by planning these rooms at the top of the building, it is hoped to prevent the smells of cooking reaching other parts of the building.

A fire-resisting staircase serving all floors is included, with a novel form of balustrade formed of terrazzo having plain flat surfaces. Each landing has a large window of a louvred type, which may be kept open in all but the most inclement weather; the stairs well thus forming a valuable ventilation trunk to the whole block.

Above the flat roofs are two towers, one above each lift well, in which are housed the lift machinery, and in the larger are two cast-iron water tanks, one for cold and the other feeding the water heaters in the basement.



KITCHEN.

Entirely separate water service pipes are taken to the Operating suite, in order that the pressure may be constant, no matter how many taps are running in other parts of the building.

Although the circumscribed nature of the site influenced the adoption of a multi-storey building, in this instance it is probable that this type, with automatic lift communication between floors, is more easily administered and supervised than a building with fewer storeys, but of necessity having longer corridors connecting departments, and although tall hospitals have in the past been almost entirely erected in the centre of closely built-up districts, it seems probable that the general tendency will be to increased height and diminished spread in the future even where the buildings are erected on sites of quite generous proportions.

The Building Contractors are Messrs. William Jackson, Ltd., of Langley Green, Birmingham, who have erected the building from the plans and under the superintendence of Messrs. John P. Osborne and Son, Architects, of Birmingham and Handsworth.

NURSES' HOME.

The need for this building became apparent in 1925, when, owing to the expansion and re-modelling of the hospital buildings, the nursing staff had, of necessity, been greatly augmented.

The building as erected provides for all the necessities of the Nurses when off duty. The exception to this being that their meals will be served in their dining room in the Main Administrative Block, which is in close communication with the Central Kitchen. By this arrangement a duplication of cooking apparatus and staff has been avoided.

The building has been planned in the form of a hollow rectangle, the main block running north and south parallel with Hallam Street, with two shorter arms projecting westwards, one at each end.

The enclosed space thus screened and sheltered from cold winds is laid out for a tennis court and with stoned paved terraces for airing and exercise.



NURSES' HOME.

The remaining ground adjacent to the building will be laid out with paths, flower beds, shrubs and lawns, there being space for several more tennis courts should they be required at any time.

The building has three storeys, the upper one being partly in the roof.

It is built in a free Georgian manner of local bricks with a stone cornice and a small amount of enrichment in the centre of the east front to emphasise the entrance.

As far as is possible with a building of these dimensions, an air of domesticity has been given to it by simplicity of line and grouping and by the sparing use of carving of a non-formal character.

The main entrance of the building leads past the office into a small panelled entrance Hall giving direct access to the Lecture Room, and from which corridors open north and south, and a staircase rises to the upper floors.

Along the south corridor are the Sisters' Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Lavatories, and Sitting Room. On the eastern side of the north corridor are the Visitors' Room, Assistant Matron's Suite, consisting of a Sitting Room, Bathroom and Bedroom, all entered from a small private lobby; Ironing Room, containing a deep sink, in which Nurses may wash and iron any of their clothing which they are not willing to trust to the Laundry; and Probationers' Cloak Room and Lavatory with hot pipes for drying cloaks, etc.

On the western side of this north corridor are the Staff Nurses' Sitting Room and various essential Stores for Linen, Boxes, etc.

The Probationers' Recreation and Sitting Room is in the northern arm and is of a size to accommodate the whole staff on special occasions; it has an oak boarded floor and a large open fireplace.

The First and Second Floors consist entirely of Bedrooms, Stores, and Lavatories, and are served internally by two fire-resisting staircases, one near the main entrance and one near the Recreation Room.

In addition to these two staircases, is an iron external emergency stairs at the south end. It will, therefore, be seen that with a means of exit at each end and in the centre of the building there is no need to fear a panic in the case of a fire occurring at any point.

Each bedroom has a built-in wardrobe, which, wherever possible, for ease of cleaning has been kept flush with the wall face.

The lavatory basins are arranged each in a separate small cubicle in the Sanitary Blocks, and in a building where all the occupants are of one sex this arrangement has distinct advantages over that of fixing the basins in the bedrooms, in that the walls and floors of the Sanitary Blocks are of a nature to receive water and splashings which those in a bedroom are not. This arrangement also has the advantages of being less expensive. Two of the basins on each floor are fitted with shampoo fittings.

It is thought that everything reasonable has been done for the comfort and recreation of the Nurses.

The Building Contractors are Messrs. W. Kendrick and Son, Ltd., of Walsall, who have erected the building from the plans and under the superintendence of Messrs. John P. Osborne and Son, Architects, of Birmingham and Handsworth.

HEATING AND LIGHTING.

The heating apparatus, both at the Hospital and Nurses' Home, is of the low pressure hot water type, the hot water being accelerated by pump.

The Wards are heated partly by pipes extending the full length of the Wards, thus tempering the coldness of the windows. These pipes are supplemented by radiators of the new hospital type.

Hot water is provided by water-heated calorifiers in each block of buildings, thus obviating the necessity of carrying steam round the Hospital.

The Operating Theatre has, in addition to the ordinary heating, a large steam radiator in order that heat may be provided

quickly at such times as the general heating apparatus is not required. Steam is also used for sterilizing purposes, both for instruments and bowls.

An electric light, which is shaded so as to give no glare to the patients, is provided for each bed. There are also a few lights in the centre of each Ward, controlled by a dimmer.

The Scialytic Light above the Operating Table is a special one, by means of which light is concentrated on to such part of the table as the Surgeon requires.

The Kitchen Equipment, which has to supply the needs of 400 patients and staff, consists of boiling pans; steam chambers for potatoes and puddings; Bain Marie for the preparation of beef tea and sterilizing milk; electrically heated roasting oven and fish frier; gas boiler table and ovens; potato peeling machine; a mixer and mincing machine; and steam heated carving tables. There is also a machine capable of washing 1000 pieces of crockery, including cups, saucers, and glasses, per hour.

The engineering work at the Hospital has been carried out by Messrs. Couzens and Akers, Ltd., and at the Nurses' Home by Messrs. G. N. Haden and Sons, Ltd., and the electric lighting by Messrs. Whittaker Bros., under the superintendence of Messrs. Edwards and Shaw, Consulting Engineers, Birmingham.



